to show every feature of the claimed invention. In particular, the Examiner states "the lens device must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s)."

In order to avoid this objection, applicant has amended the claims to remove the reference to a "lens device." In particular, amended claim 1 now calls for a lens mount which is shown in drawings as element 6. Based on the amendment, applicant's drawing are now believed to be in conformity with the provisions of 37 CFR § 1.83(a).

The Examiner has rejected applicant's claim 4 under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point put and distinctly claim applicant's invention. Specifically, the Examiner objects to the phraseology "the two sides" in line 2 of claim 4.

In order to avoid this rejection, claim 4 has been amended to delete the phraseology "the two sides" in favor of the recitation --both sides--. With this amendment, claim 4 is now believed to particularly point out and distinctly claim applicant's invention, in compliance with the provisions of 35 USC 112, second paragraph.

The Examiner has rejected applicant's claim 1-4 and 12 under 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated by the Muramatsu, et al. patent. The Examiner has further rejected applicant's claims 1 and 5-7 as anticipated by the Furuya, et al. patent. Claims 8-10 have been rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as unpatentable based on the Muramatsu, et al. patent taken in view of the Kikuchi patent. Finally, claim 11 has been rejeceted also under 35 USC § 103(a) as unpatentable based on the Muramatsu, et al. patent taken with the Omiya patent. With respect to applicant's claims, as amended, these rejections are respectfully traversed.

Applicant's invention is directed to a type of camera in which an image taking

device is designed to photoelectrically convert light received. In such a camera, a fast-clock digital CPU is mounted and noise is produced which is greater than that in the conventional silver halide camera. The camera body is, therefore, preferably made from metal which better suppresses such noise, as compared to use of plastic for the camera body. However, if the camera body is made of metal, it is difficult to form the body with high precision as compared to the precision realizable when using plastic. Accordingly, it takes a great deal of effort to improve the accuracy of the flange back, i. e., the distance from the lens mount surface to the light receiving element surface. The present invention provides an arrangement for easily setting the flange back if the camera body is made of metal.

In the camera of the present invention, a lens mount and an image taking device designed to photo-electrically convert received light are mounted on a central main body. The central main body is coupled to a least one of a front main body member forming the front portion of the camera and a rear main body forming the rear portion of the camera. With this type of construction, a camera can be realized, which can accurately set a flange back and is resistant to static pressure. Such a construction is not taught or suggested by the cited art of record.

The cited Muramatsu, et al. patent is directed to a camera in which is mounted a photographic film unit. However, the patent fails to teach or suggest a camera having an image taking device designed to photoelectrically convert light received, nor can it, therefore, teach or suggest a central main body member on which a lens mount and the image taking device are mounted and which is coupled to at least one of a front and rear main body member.

Applicant's amended claim 1, and its respective dependent claims, all of which recite such features, thus patentably distinguish over the Muramatsu, et al. patent

The cited Furuya, et al. patent is also directed to a camera in which a photographic film unit is mounted. This patent additionally mentions the use of an auto-focus (AF) sensor unit 51 for controlling range finding and arranged below the mirror box 43 (see, FIG. 7 of the Furuya, et al. patent). However, the patent does not disclose how this sensor is mounted. Accordingly, the Furuya, et al. patent likweise fails to teach or suggest use of a central main body member on which a lens mount and an image taking device designed to photoelectrically convert light received are mounted and which is coupled to at least one of a front and rear main body member.

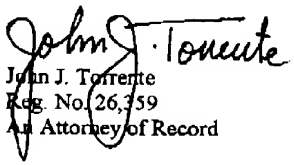
Applicant's amended claim 1, and its dependent claims, all of which recite such features, thus patentably distinguish over the Furuya, et al. patent.

The other patents cited by the Examiner, i.e., Kikuchi and Omiya, were cited for features unrelated to those discussed above as patentably distinguishing applicant's amended claims over the Muramatsu, et al. patent. Applicant's amended claims thus patentably distinguish over the Examiner's combination of the Muramatsu, et al. patent with either the Kikuchi or Omiya patent.

In view of the above, it is submitted that applicant's claims, as amended, patentably distinguish over the cited art of record. Accordingly, reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested.

Dated: August 7, 2002.

Respectfully submitted,



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Version With Markings To Show Changes Made

IN THE CLAIMS

Amend claims 1 and 4-7 as follows:

1. (Amended) A camera comprising:

a lens mount [holding member for detachably holding a lens device];

an image taking device [for taking an image formed by said lens device] designed to photoelectrically convert light received;

a front main body member [forming] which forms a front portion of a main body of said camera;

a rear main body member which forms a rear portion of the main body of said camera and is coupled to said front main body member; and

a central main body member on which said lens mount [holding member] and said image taking device are mounted and which is coupled to at least one of said front and rear main body members.

4. (Amended) A camera according to claim 3, wherein said coupling members are arranged on [the two] both sides of said central main body member.

5. (Amended) A camera according to claim 1, further comprising:

a finder optical device mounted on said central main body member; and

a mirror unit which is mounted on said central main body member and reflects [a] an object light beam [from said lens device] and guides the object light beam to said finder optical system.

6. (Amended) A camera according to claim 5, wherein said finder optical device includes a focal plate serving as an imaging plane for the optical light beam reflected by said mirror unit.

7. (Amended) A camera according to claim 5, further comprising a focus detection device which is mounted on said central main body member and performs focus detection by using [a] an optical light beam from said mirror unit.

Cancel claim 12